

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides for the transmission IP data over an ATM switch architecture in a communications network. The invention provides for a distributed communication system that includes a user terminal for generating and processing
5 user data in a connectionless format, a relay node communicatively connected to the user terminal, the relay node supporting a connection-oriented operation functionality and a gateway communicatively connected to the relay node for managing the interface between the user terminal and the relay node.